

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please amend the following claims:

C1
K
18. (Twice Amended) A composite board comprising inorganic or cellulosic materials or both inorganic and cellulosic materials and a latex binder, the latex binder comprising a copolymer having a T_g of at least about 80°C , wherein the resulting composite board has a modulus of rupture of at least about 130 psi as measured by ASTM 367-78[,] whereby, upon exposing a 1-1/2 x 6 inch strip of the composite board to 90 percent relative humidity at 94°F for 96 hours, the composite board [maintains dimensional stability] sags less than 0.8 mm.

In Claim 23, line 14, delete "A ceiling tile" and insert therefor --The composite board--.

Please add the following claims:

C2
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29. The composite board of Claim ~~20~~ ³ wherein the methyl methacrylate is present in an amount from about 50 to about 99 weight percent, the ethyl acrylate is present in an amount of from about 1 to about 50 weight percent and the fumaric acid is present in an amount of from about zero to about 20 weight percent.

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30. The composite board of Claim ~~20~~ ³ wherein the methyl methacrylate is present in an amount of from about 65 to about 95 weight percent, the ethyl acrylate is present in an amount of from about 5 to about 35 weight percent and the fumaric acid is present in an amount from about 0.5 to about 10 weight percent.

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31. The composite board of Claim ~~23~~ ⁶ wherein the styrene is present in an amount of from about 50 to

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cont

about 99 weight percent, the ethyl acrylate is present in an amount of from about 1 to about 50 weight percent and the acrylic acid is present in an amount of from about zero to about 20 weight percent.

13 32. The composite board of Claim 23 wherein the styrene is present in an amount of from about 65 to about 95 weight percent, the ethyl acrylate is present in an amount of from about 5 to about 35 weight percent and the acrylic acid is present in an amount of from about 0.5 to about 10 weight percent.

14 33. The composite board of Claim 24 wherein the hard monomer is present in an amount from about 50 to about 99 weight percent and the soft monomer is present in an amount of from about 1 to about 50 weight percent.

14 34. The composite board of Claim 33 wherein the hard monomer is methyl methacrylate and the soft monomer is ethyl acrylate and the latex binder additionally comprises fumaric acid in an amount of from about zero to about 20 weight percent.

14 35. The composite board of Claim 33 wherein the hard monomer is styrene, the soft monomer is ethyl acrylate and the latex binder additionally comprises acrylic acid in an amount of from about zero to about 20 weight percent.

19 36. The composite board of Claim 28 wherein the copolymer comprises methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate and fumaric acid.

20 37. The composite board of Claim 28 wherein the copolymer comprises styrene, ethyl acrylate and acrylic acid.